

A Publication of the  
**NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR EXAMINING BOARD**  
**Volume 12, No. 2**  
**February, 2002**

**Board Membership**

Governor Scott McCallum had appointed Elaine August, a nurse who is a former member of the Nursing Board, to the Nursing Home Administrator Examining Board; however, Ms. August was not able to continue with the Board due to the health of her father. We regret not having had an opportunity to work with Ms. August. We have had a nurse member vacancy for quite some time.

We would like to congratulate Mike Kittleson, a former member of the Board, for having received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators (NAB). "In addition to his past service as NAB President," said the NAB, "Kittleson has assisted the association in many capacities since the 1980s, most recently with the NAB Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Exam and NAB's strategic planning task force."

---

**NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
EXAMINING BOARD**

---

**Members of the Board:**

Karen R. Robinson, Chair (Bloomer)  
Jerry Schallock, Vice Chair (Rhineland)  
Patricia A. Schulz, Secretary (Elroy)  
David M. Egan (Kenosha)  
Robert A. Kessler, D.O. (Pewaukee)  
Roxann Sobek (Hartland)  
Robert F. Mulder, Jr. (West Salem)  
Anthony Oberbrunner (Milwaukee)  
Vacancy (Public Nurse Member)  
Vacancy (Public Member)

**Administrative Staff:**

Cletus J. Hansen, Division Administrator

**Executive Staff:**

Oscar Herrera, Secretary  
Greg Horstman, Deputy Secretary  
Myra Shelton, Executive Assistant

The NAB is a regulatory association of which the Board is a member.

**Licensing Statistics**

Statistics relating to the number of nursing home administrator licenses issued during each of the past 5 years are as follows:

1996: 42	1999: 45
1997: 55	2000: 43
1998: 50	2001: 58

Statistics relating to the number of nursing home administrator licenses renewed at the end of the last six bienniums are as follows:

1990: 1,044	1996: 1,085
1992: 1,025	1998: 927
1994: 1,019	2000: 975

**Decline in Exam Candidates**

The NAB published the following press release on March 2, 2001. It is printed here with permission.

\*\*\*\*

Nursing Home Administrators: A Vanishing Profession? Third Year of Decline, Increasing Need, Signals Crisis-in-the-Making

Washington, D.C. – The number of long term professionals interested in becoming administrators of skilled nursing facilities is in steep decline. The number of applicants for the National Association of Board of Examiners of Long Term Care

---

**CONTENTS**

Board Membership .....	1
Licensing Statistics .....	1
Decline in Exam Candidates .....	1
Administrative Rule Changes .....	2
Fee Revisions in Budget Bill .....	3
Proposed Statutory Changes .....	3
Telephone Directory and DRL Services .....	4

Administrators (NAB) Nursing Home Administrator Licensing Examination has declined sharply for the third straight year. The examination is a requirement for becoming an administrator.

The NAB leadership is alarmed about this precipitous decline and its implications for the future of skilled nursing facilities. The number of exam candidates dropped 36.5 percent over the last three years from the ten-year average. Historically, the number of exam candidates averaged 3,778 from 1988 through 1997, with a high of 4640 in 1989 and a low of 3519 in 1991. The first significant decline began in 1998 with a 12% decline below the ten-year average of 3778 from 1988 to 1997. In 1999 the number declined an additional 11% from the prior year to 2975, and in 2000 a 19% decline from the prior year to 2423.

“As a long term care professional, I am deeply concerned over this steep decline in the number of new candidates entering long term care administration,” said Steven Chies, Senior Vice President for Benedictine Health System, Long Term Care and Housing Division, and Secretary for the American Health Care Association. “This should be a wake-up call to America’s public policymakers: they need to step up and be part of the process to address the growing crisis of long term care policy. Punitive regulatory systems, inadequate public funding, and draconian personal penalties do not attract the best and brightest candidates into long term care. This shortage is just the tip of the iceberg and demands swift and decisive leadership by all parties.”

With the nation’s elderly population projected to more than double over the next 30 years, what does this decline mean to state boards who have the responsibility to ensure that the frail elderly are cared for in a safe and caring environment?” asked NAB Executive Director Randy Lindner. “Who will care for the elderly in the future if properly educated, well-trained professionals are not entering the field?”

Finding answers to that question will require a partnership between government, industry and academia to explore and identify the reasons that long term care professionals are leaving the field, and why college graduates are not considering long term care administration as a career option. With this knowledge, programs and action plans can be developed to address the issues and reverse the downward trend.

“We see dropping enrollment as a symptom of an increasingly ailing profession,” said Charles H. Roadman, II, M.D., CEO and president of the American Health Care Association. “More and more I hear from my members that they’re disheartened. Administrators say they are not doing what they signed on to do; they’re cornered by a mountain of regulation into spending much of their day deciphering onerous regulations and trying to comply with them. I know they’d rather spend more of their time providing hands-on management and care.”

Dr. Roadman added, “This decline in people who are willing to care for our elderly does not bode well for the millions of baby boomers who will be needing care in the coming years. We hope we can work with the new Congress and Administration to address the array of problems the caregiver profession faces.”

Some of the reasons for the decline appear to be obvious on the surface but require validation. Some of the reasons may be: a punitive regulatory environment; compensation commensurate with responsibility; long hours; staffing shortages; a good economy offering many attractive career options; growth of the assisted living industry; need for industry career path development programs; funding shortages; industry financial distress; and negative press.

Thanks to its members – nursing home administrator licensing boards and agencies from virtually every state and territory in the U.S. – NAB is taking the lead in calling for an exploration of, and response to, these issues. NAB members have a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the nation’s elderly. [Editor’s note: Chart not included.]

For more details about the drop in nursing home administrator exam candidates, contact NAB Executive Director Randy Lindner at 202-712-9040 ([NAB@bostromdc.com](mailto:NAB@bostromdc.com)).

### **Administrative Rule Changes**

The following administrative rule changes will become effective on February 1, 2002:

SECTION 1. NHA 1.02 (intro.) is amended to read:

**NHA 1.02 Definitions.** (intro.) As used in ~~s. 456.04 ch. 456~~, Stats., and in chs. NHA 1 to 5:

SECTION 2. NHA 1.02 (2n) is created to read:

NHA 1.02 (2n). “Inspection” means any type of inspection conducted by the Wisconsin department of health and family services pursuant to s. 50.04, Stats., or 42 CFR Part 488.

SECTION 3. NHA 1.02 (3) is amended to read:

NHA 1.02 (3) “NAB” means the national association of boards of examiners ~~for nursing home of long term care~~ administrators.

SECTION 4. NHA 1.02 (5m) is created to read:

NHA 1.02 (5m) “Pattern of serious violations of federal or state statutes, rules or regulations” means the occurrence of any of the following:

(a) One or more class A violations, as defined in s. 50.04 (4) (b) 1., Stats., in each of at least 2 inspections within any consecutive 36-month period.

(b) One or more deficiencies related to participation requirements under 42 CFR ss. 483.13, 483.15 or 483.25, which constitute immediate jeopardy to a resident’s health or safety, in each of at least 2 inspections within any consecutive 36-month period.

(c) One or more deficiencies related to participation requirements under 42 CFR ss. 483.13, 483.15 or 483.25, which constitute a pattern of actual harm, but which does not constitute immediate jeopardy to a resident’s health or safety, in each of at least 2 inspections within any consecutive 36-month period.

(d) One or more deficiencies related to participation requirements under 42 CFR ss. 483.13, 483.15 or 483.25, which constitute widespread actual harm, but which does not constitute immediate jeopardy to a resident’s health or safety, in each of at least 2 inspections within any consecutive 36-month period.

(e) One class A violation, as defined in s. 50.04 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and one deficiency of any type specified in par. (b), (c) or (d) of this subsection, within 36 months of each other, but resulting from different inspections.

(f) At least 2 or more deficiencies in any combination of single deficiencies of the types specified in par. (b), (c) or (d) of this subsection, within 36 months of each other, but resulting from different inspections.

SECTION 5. NHA 2.02 (intro.) is amended to read:

**NHA 2.02 Application for examination.** (intro.) An applicant for examination for a license as a nursing home administrator shall apply on a form provided by the board ~~at least 60 calendar days prior to the date of the examination.~~ An applicant shall also submit to the board:

SECTION 6. NHA 3.02 (5) is amended to read:

NHA 3.02 (5) Every nursing home administrator shall maintain records of continuing education ~~credits~~ hours for at least 5 years for auditing purposes.

SECTION 7. The Note following NHA 3.03 (1) (c) is amended to read:

Note: To obtain an application for approval of a continuing education program, contact NAB at ~~808 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., #200, Washington, D.C. 20006~~ 1444 I Street, N.W., #700, Washington, D.C., 20006-2210.

SECTION 8. NHA 4.01 (1) (d) is amended to read:

NHA 4.01 (1) (d) Satisfy the educational requirements specified in s. NHA 2.02 (1) ~~(a)~~.

SECTION 9. The Note following NHA 4.03 (1) is amended to read:

Note: The American College of Health Care Administrators may be contacted at ~~325 South Patrick Street~~ 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 355, Alexandria, VA 22314.

SECTION 10. NHA 5.02 (15) is created to read:

NHA 5.02 (15) Intentionally providing false information to the board in connection with an application for a license or for renewal of a license.

### Fee Revisions in Budget Bill

The Biennial Budget Bill was passed and enacted as 2001 Wisconsin Act 16. The Bill increased original license fees for all the professions regulated by the Department and its boards from \$44 to \$53. It also increase the renewal fees of nursing home administrators from \$111 to \$120.

### Proposed Statutory Changes

The Board’s legislative proposal, 2001 Assembly Bill 427 (initially introduced as AB 207), is working its way through the Legislature. Under the bill, a person must satisfy certain education and supervised practical experience requirements before he or she can take the examination. Regarding education, the bill requires a person to have either: 1) a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree with a health care administration or long-term care major; or 2) a bachelor’s degree and completion of a specialized course in nursing home administration. The bill directs the examining board to promulgate rules establishing the supervised practical experience requirements. The rules must require a person to complete at least 2,000 hours in an internship, administrator-in-training program, or other structured program before he or she can take the examination. The 2,000 hours must be completed in any consecutive three-year period within the five-year period immediately preceding the date of application for the examination. The bill also has provisions relating to reciprocal nursing home administrator licenses and it grants additional rule-making authority to the Board. This bill passed the Assembly on November 11, 2001, by a 96-2 vote. The Assembly amended it to provide an exemption from registration to a person who serves as an administrator of a facility for the care and treatment of the sick that is operated by and for persons who rely solely upon treatment by spiritual means through prayer.

Note the following Web site for a copy of the bill and a history of the Legislature’s work on the bill:  
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2001/data/AB427hst.html>

# REGULATORY DIGEST

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1369

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## New Telephone Directory

The Department of Regulation and Licensing has recently implemented an IVR Auto-Attendant Telephone System. This system may be accessed 24 hours a day for computerized licensing information. We ask for your patience as we perfect the system and remove some of the bugs we have encountered. You may continue to dial the following telephone number; **however, the extension numbers that had been published in past issues of the Regulatory Digest are no longer valid.** Please listen to the new menu for the new extension numbers. The number to dial is:

**(608) 266-5511**

Our Fax Number is: **(608) 267-3816**

## Board Meeting Dates

March 21, June 20, September 12, December 19, 2002.  
All meetings are held at 1400 E. Washington Ave., Madison, WI, and are open to the public and subject to cancellation without notice. Please call to confirm dates.

## Visit the Department's Web Site

[www.drl.state.wi.us](http://www.drl.state.wi.us)

For our new "Online Verification of Credential Holders" click on the "Business and Professional License Lookup" button on the Department's home page.

Copies of the Regulatory Digest are on the Web.

Send comments to [web@drl.state.wi.us](mailto:web@drl.state.wi.us)

## Verifications

**Requests for verifications to other states must be in writing.** The cost is \$10. Please make out check or money order to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

## Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Nursing Home Administrator Examining Board's Statutes and Administrative Codes may be ordered from the Department. Include your name, address, county and a check payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The latest edition is dated October 2000.

## Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make changes in name or address, and return it to the Department. Confirmation of changes is not automatically provided.

**SECTION 440.11, STATS., ALLOWS FOR A \$50 PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

## Subscription Service

Bi-annual digest subscriptions are published for all credentials in the Department at a cost of \$2.11 each per year. **CREDENTIAL HOLDERS RECEIVE THEIR REGULATORY DIGEST FREE OF CHARGE.** Others may send the fee and this form to the address listed above.

## Subscription Service Order Form

Name

Company/Organization

Street Address/P.O. Box

City/State/Zip + 4

County

Digest(s) desired:

G:digest/0202 NHA.doc